Comfort-By a Coffin.

BY MRS. S. M. B. PIATT. , friend of mine. Told enclanted story!—Oh, annot hear a word! some poor child who loved a bird, I knows he holds it stained and still; 'It flies-in Fairyland! nest is in a pulm-tree, on a hill; Go, enteh it-if you will."

Ah, friend of mine. 'he music (which ear hath not heard?) At best wails from the skies. Somehow into our funeral cries! The flowers (eye bath not seen?) still fail To hide the coffin-lid, Against this face so pitiless now and pale Can the high Heavens avail?

Ah, friend of mine. I think you mean-to mean it all! But then an angel's wing Is a remote and subtle thing, (If you could show me any such In air that I can breathe!) And surely Death's cold hand has much, so much.

About it we can touch!

Ah, friend of mine, Say nothing of the thorns-and then Say nothing of the snow. God's will? It is that thorns must grow, Despite our bare and troubled feet, To crown Christ on the cross; The snow keeps white watch on the unrisen

wheat, And yet-the world is sweet.

Ab. friend of mine. I know. I knew-all you can know! All you can say is-this: "It is the last time you can kiss This only one of all the dead, Knowing it is the last; These are the last tears you can ever shed On this fair fallen head." -January Scribner's.

A Centennial Poem.

BY THE EDITOR.

The waves of time have lashed their spray Against our rocking pebble world, One hundred times since that great day That Freedom's banner was unfurl'd Above the ranks where heroes stood, Prepared to die at Freedom's call, Which first rang out o'er town and wood From grand old Independence Hall!

Brave colonists with hearts so true They dared throw off their galling yoke [** Why, Uncie Jake! how do you do This morning? How are all the folks? Glad to hear they 're well."]-And with The steel of sword and bayonet Defend the right-["No, Mr. Smith, Your posters are not printed yet."]

They met, nor flinched, nor bent the knee To hirelings from a foreign shore: Their cry was "Death or Liberty!" ["Come back, you cuss, and shut the door!"

War's thunder rolled! Columbia's skies Were veiled, and lofty mountains shook · · A quarter, sir, will advertise Your lost morocco pocket-book. '']

And fields were dyed with many a drop Of crimson gore-though it did flow-["Get shaved! You'll find a barber-shop This side-the second door below." Did flow-until the ground was wet And dotted o'er with clotted pools-[.. No! haven't any copy yet. Tell them to set upon their stools!"]

They fought ["No!"] like the sons of Troy And drove the British from our shores That we to-day ["Yes!"] might enjoy

The peace-[5.0 curse the office bores The peace-["Whose poodle dog is that? Get out!! Now let the 'devil' come, I've copy for him, and it's fat!" The peace of -- Pandemonium!! -Madison Courier.

MY DIAMOND RING.

I was selling goods for the house of Solomon Sons, late Solomon & Sands, and found myself at D-, the 25th of August, 1869. When I had registered my name at the Grand Hotel, I told the clerk I would like to go to my room at once. · Imagine my disgust when he informed me that he could not give me'a room to myself, but might double me up to go to sleep. with somebody. "What's going on," I asked, impatiently.

"Billiard tournament for the diamond cue," was the answer.

"How are the other hotels?"

"Just as we are; may be worse. We kept a few rooms for commercial men, but the railroad party came in on us and took them up. I am very sorry it is as it is, Mr. Cornell; but our business is to keep a hotel, and we cannot complain very loudly even if we are overrun."

No, that was true; but all the same it was dreadfully disagreeable. Of course there was nothing for me to do but accept his offer, and be assigned to a room that already held one occupant. The clerk went with me and introduced me to a bullet-headed individual named Gay. I didn't like the fellow before I heard his name; I liked him less after the introduction. His hand was clammy, his voice toned down after the Uriah Heep order, and his eyes affected a

modesty he did not feel. I inquired which of the beds he had appropriated, and upon getting an an- alone; but I was awakened by someswer walked towards the other one. Af- thing touching my hand. My first imter washing some of the dust from my pulse was to snatch my hand away hands and face, I prepared to make a quicker than a lightning flash, but a world, or ever hoped to have, if I could health and beauty for the sake of the few calls on my customers, merely to second thought decided me to remain have sunk into a hole. let them know I was in town. Gay left motionless. the room before I did, and we agreed I must have stirred a little for I no policeman, with a grin.

key should be left at the office.

After making my business calls, and I kept still. smoking a eigar after tea, I was led to- The fingers moved around very cau. I had my mind full of billiard-players, own would have been.

Anxious to know if he belonged to the fraternity, I inquired of a gentleman near me, who seemed to be well posted about the players and their names, if there was a player on the list named

"Tell you in a moment, sir," said be, as he drew a greasy eard from his pocket. "Here's all the players' names. A, B, C-yes, here's the name, L. F. Gay. Friend of yours, sir?"

No, he was only an acquaintance. "Plays very good game, sir, for a amatoor."

I informed him that I had only met Gay a moment, and knew nothing about sanutered back to the botel.

making memoranda in a greasy-look- over and over again, but every time 1 ing diary; bets, I supposed, or some- found a different answer for it. As thing of the kind. He worked away so streaks of light came through the intently that I came to the conclusion blinds I settled upon my plan of action, he was not accustomed to using a pen; and then I turned around to make but I had my key in my hand, so I sure that the fellow should not move turned my back on him and went to my without my knowledge, no matter how

The moment my eyes rested on my been at work at it. There was a spring did not wake up until the gong sounded wire on the bolt which I had called my for breakfast. He saw I was watching position where it could not be disturbed cernedly; but I saw through his uneasiwithout my knowing it, and the satehel | ness and answered in monosylables. could not be opened without moving the wire. I found it moved from the place dressed about as fast as he; but just

ever had been there had taken nothing pull. To the darky who answered it I from it; but I put that down to the fact gave my eard to be handed to the clerk, that there was nothing in it worth tak- on the back of which I had writtening. Of course my room-mate had been "Bring a policeman with you. A. V. prowling. I was sure of that, but to C."

What little money I had with me, it - ence of the clerk." gether with my watch, I gave to the "Certainly," he answered readily New York. Another daughter marclerk to be put in the office safe, so that enough; but I could see he was very ried Major Benjamin, of the army. there was nothing of mine that was measy, worth stealing left in the roots. While I was getting ready for bed my partner came a tap at the door, and the clerk a peer of Great Britain or a German came in. He put on an expression came in followed by a policeman. that he probably imagined was an innocent one, but it was impossible for broke out the clerk, "what is the mat- Nicholas Fish, is now United States him to look any thing but the sport.

I did not care to enter into conversation, so we spoke very few words together, and then I got into bed. I had become so used to my diamond ring that I had forgetten I had one until 1 caught him looking at it somewhat intently. As quickly as I could, without appearing to do it, I drew my hand under the quilts, and endeavored to drive all thoughts of my unpleasant situation out of mind, as I turned over and tried

I did fall into a doze and must have slept an hour or two, when I woke up with a start to find a light still in the room, an i upon turning over, to see my chum sitting near the gas, and appearing to still be engaged in making up his scores or bets in his diary.

I was more than ever disgusted with him. Why didn't he go to bed and let folks sleep? He heard me move and looked up with a smirk on his face. "Sorry I disturbed you, sir; I will go to bed at once."

"What time is it?" I asked.

"I don't know, sir; I have no watch." I saw that this was a very shrewd way to find out where mine was; but I said nothing more, turning back to the wall for another snooze. He went to bed at once, and long before I could get to sleep again he was snoring loudly; snoring as he talked and lookedvulgarly.

After a while I went to sleep again, this time falling into a heavy slumber. I would have slept until nine o'clock the next morning if I had been let

that when we were out of the room the longer felt the touch against my fingers, and the room was so dark I could see I took a glance at his baggage and nothing. I began to breathe regularly, found it very much like its owner- as if were asleep, and after what seemed lip. shabby-genteel. He was undoubtedly a long time, I again felt a warm finger one of the billfard players, and must on mice. It flashed across me at once you, sir," I said, turning to Mr. Gay, have been a bar-tender when at home, that the hand was after my ring. But "but if there is any thing you would

wards the billiard hall; not so much bed tionsly and finally seemed to have the and the men I saw at the hall last would you say to that?" And the witness I saw at the hall last cause I cared for the game, but because ring. There was a speck of light on night-" every body was going, and I fell in with the ceiling, and I knew the fellow had the stream. As to who was who, I did a dark lantern and was examining the asked, laughing, Some of the shots were very brilliant, little, and I knew by the motion that he all the story I have told. Yet it was attorney, for unfortunately the latter aland some of them were as bad as my was filing off the little arms that held much more real than what is happening ways has the advantage, and too often the diamond to the ring.

> him in the morning with it in his possession. I decided for the latter course, and so I lay still.

In an incredibly short time he had filed enough of the setting to remove the diamond, and I hardly knew when he went away, his motions were so cat-like. I raised my head so as to follow the put the lantern into his valise before he turned out the light.

I still continued the regular breathing, night. How should I go to work in the January. My room-mate was sitting at a desk morning? I asked myself this question lightly his motions were made.

He was snoring as vulgarly sound as hand-satchel, I was aware some one had if he was an honest coal-heaver, and he tell-tale, because I invariably left it in a him, and he attempted to talk uncoa-

When he got out of bed, I did. I before either of us was quite ready to A hasty search showed me that who- leave the room, I gave the bell-cord a

be doubly sure I went down stairs and They were longer finding a policeasked the clerk if Gay had had the key man than I supposed they would be, and during my absence. He said that he before they appeared the thief was side curls, and performs the social duhad. In answer to his question if any dressed and preparing to leave the room, ties exacted of her with wonderful inthing was wrong, I said there was noth- I put myself between him and the door, dustry. One of her daughters married ing out of the way, and I went back to saying, "You will have to wait a mo- Sidney Webster when he was Frank ment; I wish to see you in the pres- Pierce's private secretary; he is now a

ter?"

swered. "When this fellow thought I Fish to entertain the foreign diplomats was asleep last night, he fired the setting in Washington, to settle their little disoff my ring and removed the diamond. pates on questions of etiquette, and to He has the diamond concealed between make them reasonably happy. Last the toes of his right foot,"

him, so that I cautioned the policeman House is of goodly size, he was forced to watch him. The eaution was un- to make a three days' job of it. So, on necessary, however, for the policeman Monday, he had the Envoys Extraordialready had him by the arm.

"This is a dreadful mistake, gentlemen-" he began, but the policeman d'Affaires, with a few personal friends said: "Yes, of course it is; but pull off to fill up the gaps. Now the Senate your boot, or I'll do it for you."

"I will take off my boot," said he, this in your house, sir."

ing, and then drew his toes apart so that and daughters of Senators and Repre- you think that is the proper thing, sir, it was evident there was nothing be- sentatives, and must be "at home" tween them. The policeman examined every Wednesday to receive visits from the boot and stocking, but there was them and the rest of society in return, remains silent, about diamond off his other boot and stocking, but the money, hospitality, and hard work. examination proved alike fruitless.

I began to feel as if I had done a foolman.

"Let me see your ring," he said, "and I can tell how it was done."

I gave him my hand. "Why, d-n it, man! your diamond

is here in the ring!" I looked at it. So it was. I would have given every dollar I had in the husbands: "Look out for physical

"I guess I am drank," I replied. "Better go to hed and get suber." said the clerk, but whit a succe on his

like to have me do, I will gladly do it.

"And you took me for one?" he say you lied."

here now."

when i read-

EZRA GAY.

New Haven, Conn. ring, and is known as Mrs. Cornell .-

The Hospitality of Secretary Fish.

Gossiping about the notabilities in Washington, a correspondent of the Boston Post says Secretary Fish sustains the position of premier, or head of the Cabinet, at an expenditure of at least \$10,000 a year above his salary. He is of orthodox Knickerbocker stock; and the services of his father, Colonel Nicholas Fish, gave him a hereditary right to belong to the Society of the Cincinnati, over the central organization of which he presides as captaingeneral. On the door of his carriage, on his silver, and on his dainty note-paper, are his family crests—a dolphin and a sea-griffin-with the motto Deus Dabit. He is a rather large, British-looking man, with leg-of-mutton side whiskers, a stout nose, and a pleasant expression of countenance, especially when he is chuckling over his success in humbugging some verdant newsgatherer on diplomatic matters. Mrs. Fish is a matronly looking person, who wears her gray hair in the old-fashioned way, with successful practitioner of law in Miss Edith remains a sylph-like, haugh-In a second or two after that there ty, dark-eyed girl, who should marry prince, and who would grace any court. "In heaven's name, Mr. Cornell!" There are also sons. One of them, Secretary of Legation at Berlin. It is "The matter is simply this," I am the especial social duty of Secretary week he dined and wined them, and, al-He turned white and looked around though his dining-room in the Morgan nary; on Tuesday, the Ministers Resident; and on Wednesday the Charges and House Foreign Committees must no?" next be entertained at dinner, and then and with more dignity than he had yet the leading members of either House shown; "but," turning to the clerk, will expect to put their Congressional sir. That is ample. At last you ad-"I hardly expected to have to submit to legs under the Fishes' mahogany. Then mit that you, a witness, an important Mrs. and Miss Fish must go the grand He drew off his boot, then his stock- rounds to leave their cards on the wives the town discussing the matter! Do them. Verily, the Department of State, al-

Some earnest female revivalists, on ish thing, to let him remove the dia- their rounds from house to house in mond so easily, but he must have his Cleveland, O., the other day, called upfile or saws somewhere among his ef- on a respectable-looking, middle-aged told to "stand down," and leaves the fects. I mentioned this to the police- gentleman, and, after an hour or so spent in urgently inquiring after his spiritual condition, left in disgust when they found they had been interviewing the Bishop-elect of Illinois.

> A WESTERN lady gives the following advice to girls engaged in looking up race. Do not bestow a glance on the him as you would a pestilence."

The Humars and III Humars of Cross-Examination.

" Suppose," said an lown attorney to "I don't know how to apologize to a witness whom he was cross-examining, "Suppose, sir, I should tell you that I could bring a dozen of your own neighbors who would swear they wou not believe you under oath! What

It is not often that the tables are thus "Yes, sir; and I must have dreamed turned on a brow-heating and insolent "It is all right," said he. "No dam- are instances of this almost every day room-mate among the players; but be what was best to do; jump and call for age has been done to any one. Perhaps in our courts. A modest, quiet busiwas not visible anywhere in the room help, or let him file it off, and catch the clerk and policeman will take a ness man, unused to standing before a the clerk and policeman will take a eigar with us," and he handed the great audience, is placed in the witness-weed around. Then he gave me his box. He unlackily knows some imporcard. My humiliation was extreme tant facts about a case on trial before an intelligent jury. He states these facts truthfully and without malice, They are, though not with any connivance on his part, fatal to the other I had heard of Professor Gay, and had side. The only remedy, therefore, is to Still keeping up my regular breathing, been seeing nothing but deviltry in his destroy his evidence. Consequently an countenance! He was extremely kind, important little fellow, with bristling speck of light, and I saw him take off and when we parted at the end of the hair and pompons tone, prepares to exone of the stockings he had on, place third day following, he gave me a cor-tinguish him. Leaning back in his chair the diamond between two of his toes, dial invitation to visit him. I visited and glaring at the modest man, the atdraw the stocking on again, and then him, and then visited again, and yet torney opens: "Now, sir, what is your again. There was a Miss Gay in the name?" Of course he knows it, the house, but she now wears that diamond jury know it, the court knows it, but the attorney asks it again, as if it were fessional; and I lit another eigar and but there was no more sleep for me that Wm. H. Maher, in Locke's Monthly for of the greatest importance, and the witness might deny his name on second thought. So he says, "Now, sir, what is your name?"

"Thomas Brown," responds the modest man.

"What?" screams the lawyer. "Speak up, can't you? You are ashamed of your name, are you?"

"No, sir," replies Brown.

"Very well! Then speak up so the jury can hear you. Now, sir, what is your interest in this case?" with a significant look at the jury.

"I have no interest in it," replies the

The attorney looks horrified at the total depravity of the witness. He glances at the jury again, as much as to say: "Gentlemen, did you ever behold such turpitude?" and then goes on speaking deliberately, and emphasizing every word with a beek of his forganger, "Do you swear, sir, before This jury and in presence of this court, and on your solemn oath, that you have no

interest in this case?" "Yes, sir," says Brown, blushing.

"Yes, you have, or yes, you have

"I have not."

"Haven't you confessed within the past week to three different parties that you have an interest?"

"No, sir," replies Brown, trembling, and trying to think if he has ever uttered a word that could be tortured into such an admission.

"You swear before this jury," says the afterney, "that you have never talked about this matter?"

"I did not say I had not talked," replied the witness.

"Ah, ha! Then you have talked!" exclaims the attorney. "I thought I could refresh your recollection."

"I only said"-continues the witness, desiring to explain; but he is stopped abruptly. "Never mind what you said, sir. When I want to know what you have

said I will inquire of you. I understand you now to admit that you have talked about the matter. Is that right?" "I simply talked"-

"Will you please answer my question?" thunders the attorney. "Have you talked, or have you not? Yes or

"Yes, but"-

"That will do; you need not go on, witness, in this case, have been around for a witness to do?"

The witness, abashed and humiliated,

"Will you answer, sir?" continues Then he ordered him to take though an honorable position, costs the lawyer, threateningly. "Do you come before this jury, expecting to be believed, while admitting that you have made this case the subject of hope and fear, and discussed it on the street?"

The witness tries to explain, but is box, feeling that in some way he has been made to appear like a rascally perjurer, when he is as absolutely free from bias or prejudice as the most disinterested spectator in the room .- Chicago Inter-Ocean.

CORN BREAD BATTER.-Take 6 tesspoonfuls of flour and 3 of cornmeal, with a little salt; sift them, and make a thin batter with 4 eggs and a sufficient "Have you been drunk?" asked the lean, dyspeptic, cadaverous biped; shun quantity of milk. Bake in small pans in a quick oven.